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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4

**55TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2022**

INTRODUCED BY

Christine Chandler

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY TO VACATE THE  
1954 DECISION OF THE UNITED STATES ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION TO  
REVOKE THE SECURITY CLEARANCE OF DR. J. ROBERT OPPENHEIMER.

WHEREAS, during the throes of World War II, the project  
that became known to the world as the Manhattan project was  
established to design and build the first nuclear weapons, and  
Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer was chosen by Lieutenant General  
Leslie Groves as the civilian director of the project; and

WHEREAS, General Groves, on the advice of Dr. Oppenheimer,  
selected a site on the remote Pajarito plateau of northern New  
Mexico to gather the scientists and technicians to work on the  
Manhattan project; and

WHEREAS, on December 2, 1963, President Lyndon B. Johnson  
presented Dr. Oppenheimer with the Enrico Fermi award "on

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1 behalf of the atomic energy commission and the people of the  
2 United States"; and

3 WHEREAS, the United States senate, on the one hundredth  
4 anniversary of his birth, recognized "the loyal service of J.  
5 Robert Oppenheimer to the United States and the outstanding  
6 contributions he made to theoretical physics, the Los Alamos  
7 national laboratory, the development of nuclear energy and the  
8 common defense and security of the United States"; and

9 WHEREAS, multiple biographers of Dr. Oppenheimer,  
10 historians of the Manhattan project, noted academics,  
11 scientists who are members of the prestigious Los Alamos  
12 national laboratory fellows and several former directors of the  
13 Los Alamos national laboratory strongly endorse vacating the  
14 1954 decision of the United States atomic energy commission to  
15 revoke Dr. Oppenheimer's security clearance; and

16 WHEREAS, the legislature is aware that four United States  
17 senators recently requested the United States secretary of  
18 energy to vacate the United States atomic energy commission's  
19 1954 decision; and

20 WHEREAS, it is fitting for the legislature to endorse the  
21 restoration of status to a man who played an indispensable role  
22 in the success of the Manhattan project in defending national  
23 security; was instrumental in the eventual location of two  
24 national laboratories in New Mexico, thus bolstering the key  
25 role of the state in contributing to the nation's security; and

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1 was the victim of a miscarriage of justice;

2 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
3 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the United States department of  
4 energy, through its secretary, be formally requested to vacate  
5 the United States atomic energy commission's 1954 decision to  
6 revoke the security clearance of Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
8 transmitted to the United States secretary of energy and the  
9 New Mexico congressional delegation.